



The Federation of European Philatelic Associations

President's Report to Congress

Tarvisio 23rd September 2023

WELCOME

Thank you for coming
and for supporting FEPA

What is FEPA's main purpose?

To support its Members in
promoting philately in Europe.

What does FEPA do?

Share Information

Promote Innovation and Cooperation

Support Exhibitions

Reward Achievements

Sharing Information

Philatelic news items on the FEPA website.

Newsletters by e-mail every two weeks.

FEPA NEWS journal every six months.

Social Media - YouTube and Facebook.

Seminars at exhibitions.

Promoting Innovation and Cooperation

Round Table Discussion on the Future of Philately.

Working with Members to build cooperation on use of digital technology in organised philately.

Articles in FEPA NEWS offering fresh perspectives on philatelic development, e.g. in literature judging, artificial intelligence, social media.

Public invited to nominate candidates for best website medal.

Supporting Exhibitions

Package of materials for exhibition organisers, including templates for FREGEX, IREX, contract.

Guidelines on Narrow Theme exhibits.

Granting Patronage and Recognition to European exhibitions.

Providing FEPA judges and team leaders.

Rewarding Achievements in 2023

Medals awarded:

- Two for exceptional service to organised philately (one 'in memoriam').
- One for exceptional philatelic study and research (6 outstanding candidates).
- One for the most innovative philatelic website (21 candidates shortlisted).

Certificates of Appreciation awarded to 5 philatelic societies in different countries.

Looking Ahead

There is much to celebrate:

Outstanding philatelic research and literature.

Strong philatelic market.

Vast improvement in access to information through spread of digital technology.

Steady expansion of the scope of 'philately'.

Excellent exhibitions.

Exhibitions with FEPA Patronage

HAFNIA 24 Copenhagen, 17 - 20 October 2024

celebrating 400 years of the Danish Post.

Our special thanks to the Danish Federation for inviting FEPA to hold its 2024 Congress in Copenhagen.

EuroPhilEx 2025 Birmingham, 7 - 11 May 2025

The UK's decennial exhibition for FEPA Members.

Exhibitions with FEPA Recognition

So far in 2023 five exhibitions have been granted FEPA Recognition:

IBRA

Germany

BRATISLAVAFILA 2023

Slovakia

MULTILATERALE 2023

Slovenia

TRELLEBORG 2023

Sweden

ALPE ADRIA 2023

Italy

Looking ahead six more exhibitions have FEPA Recognition:

TIMFILEX 2023

Romania

ANKARA 2023

Turkey

EFIRO 2024

Romania

2024 Youth Sport Philately Challenge

France

NORDIA 2024

Norway

MARE BALTICUM 2024

Estonia

On the other hand

There are also challenges:

Participation in traditional organised philately is declining.

Payment of postage is being digitised widely.

Philately has an image problem in the wider world.

The Image Problem

Philately is widely seen as 'stamp collecting'.

A major British newspaper recently wrote:

'...the market in amateur stamp collecting has collapsed, as has the habit of letter writing. ...Perhaps it is true that philately will get you nowhere.'

A typical example of how philately has failed to convince the wider world that it makes a valuable contribution to society.

What message should we be giving?

Key points:

- Philately is not only about postage stamps.
- It covers many subjects and people collect in different ways.
- It is a route to life-long learning.
- It is beneficial for the health and well-being of collectors and of society at large.
- It makes a major contribution to research and literature.
- When set in context - family and local history, political and military history, social, economic and cultural questions - it is relevant to many non-philatelists.

How should we get the message across?

As FEPA's Communications Director, Costas' advice is as follows:

- We are all responsible for the image of philately.
- Everything communicates and how we communicate is crucial.
- The message needs to be strong, clear and easily understood.
- It needs to be delivered in an attractive way, in keeping with modern fashions.
- We need to use social media in the most effective way we can.
- We must embrace the new rather than to protect the old.

An interesting example

'Clash of Empires: The 1879 Anglo-Zulu War'

Exhibition in July 2023 at the Royal Philatelic Society London

Organised by Alex Haimann FRPSL

- Brought together a vast range of philatelic and non-philatelic materials.
- Showed that philatelic material was essential to understanding the story.
- Advertised through videos on YouTube which have attracted over 640,000 views - likely to exceed 1 million before the end of this year.
- Visited by 2,100 people and very warmly received.
- Set the philately firmly in the wider context of the historical events and the people involved.

History of the Zulu People – from Shaka to Cetshwayo



Caption 1.



Caption 2.

The Coming of the Red Soldier; the Road to War



Caption 3.



Caption 4.



Caption 5.

First Shock; Battles of iSandlwana and Rorke's Drift, January 1879



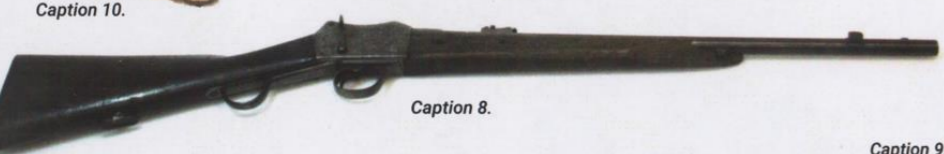
Caption 6.



Caption 7.



Caption 11.

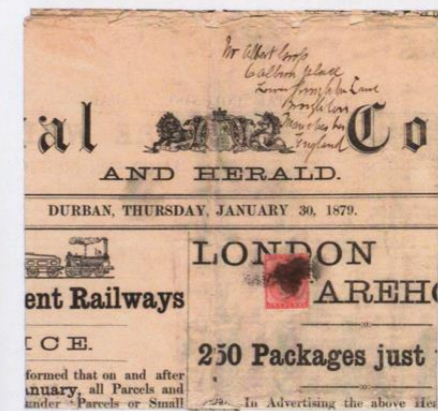


Caption 8.



Caption 9.

'Not Tears Enough To Mourn'; The War after iSandlwana

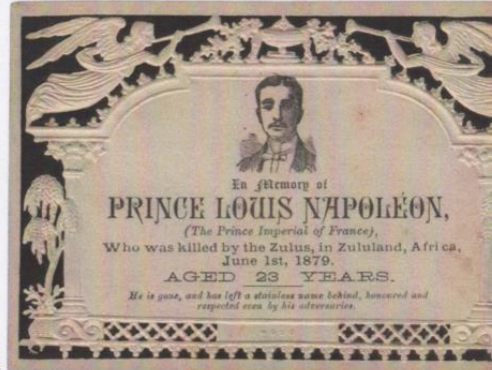


Caption 13.



Caption 12.

'The End of a Great European Dynasty; Louis Napoleon Bonaparte and the Zulus

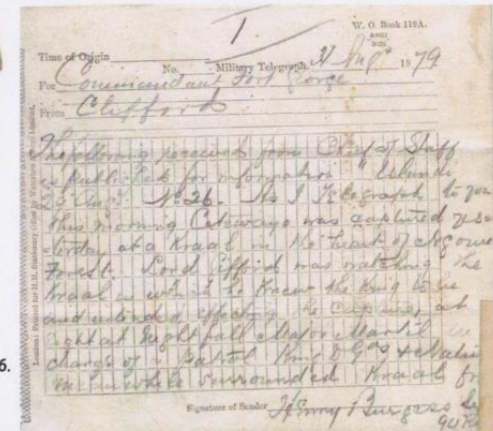


Caption 14.

'Warding Off the Falling Tree' Zulu Defeat and the capture of King Cetshwayo



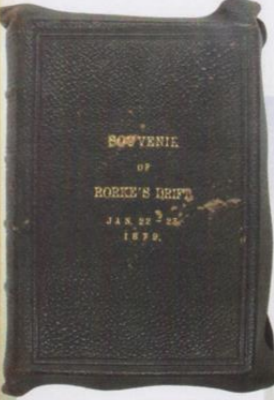
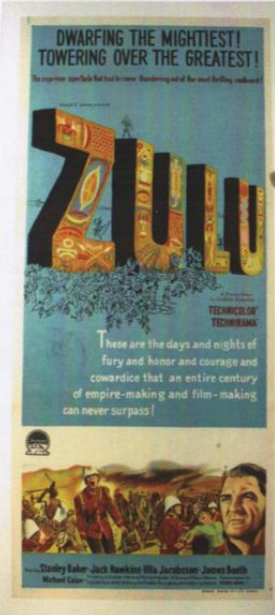
Caption 15.



Caption 16.



Caption 17.

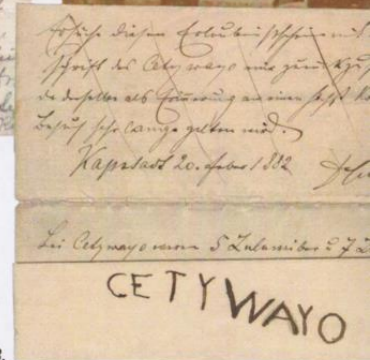


Caption 19.

The War and Its Legacy



Caption 21.



Caption 18.



Caption 22.

My Concluding Appeal to Congress

There is a bright future for philately.

It will continue to be an absorbing pastime and a fascinating field for study.

But future success will depend on our ability to adapt to change.

We must make full use of digital technology in developing new ways of organising philately.

We must also focus our attention on the urgent need to improve the public image of philately.

Please work with us so that we can all benefit from cooperation in tackling these questions.



Thank you
for your attention.

Are there any questions?